

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method of an executable program of a cryptographic processor masking a conditional jump operation in [[a]] said cryptographic processor, said cryptographic processor being programmed such that said executable program to execute executes a sequence of instructions, wherein the conditional jump is determined by said executable program evaluating a distinguishing value V against a reference value and wherein the reference value is bounded by an upper limit Vmax and a lower limit Vmin, the method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) determining a location of [[a]] said conditional jump in [[a]] said executable program; and
  - (b) inserting processor instruction instructions at said location to direct execution of said program execution to one of two branches, said processor instructions computing a target address, the target address being derived from said distinguishing value and a base address constituted by a random number, wherein for each evaluation of said distinguishing value against said reference value a different number of instructions are executed for each conditional jump.
2. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1, said distinguishing value being combined with [[a]] said random [[value]] number, thereby adding a random number of instructions on every conditional evaluation.
3. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, said inserted instructions including calls to respective subroutines, said subroutines including instructions for changing the return address of the subroutines to said one of two branches.
4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim [[4]] 1, said target address is computed using an extended addressing mode of said processor.

6. – 26. (cancelled)